

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 /016 W
-----011570 060831Z/11

R 060157Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255

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STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA

REF: STATE 083084

1. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY INSTANCE IN THE LAST
SEVERAL YEARS IN WHICH DEA COULD CONSTRUE EMBASSY
ACTION AS EITHER RESTRAINING DEA OR VETOING ITS
OPERATIONS.

2. ON THE CONTRARY, WE FEEL THAT COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE KUALA LUMPUR DISTRICT OFFICE (KLDO) OF
DEA AND THE EMBASSY ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT MATTERS
HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
KLDO ON THE ONE HAND AND THE DCM/NARCOTICS COORDIN-
ATOR, THE POLITICAL SECTION, AND THE CONSULAR
SECTION ON THE OTHER IS AN OPEN AND EASY ONE. THE
DRAFTING AND CLEARANCE OF MESSAGES ON NARCOTICS
MATTERS POSE NO PROBLEMS FOR EITHER SIDE.
DEA KEEPS THE EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF ALL
RELEVANT ASPECTS OF ITS OPERATIONS AND SHARES
ITS HIGHER LEVEL CONTRACTS WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL
WHENEVER APPROPRIATE. THE EMBASSY LIKEWISE
INCLUDES THE SAIC IN ITS MEETINGS WITH POLICY
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LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES. DEA
AND THE CONSUL COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S
POSITIONS ON AMERICAN CITIZEN ARRESTEES, AND
THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONFLICTS ON THIS SCORE.
THE SAIC IS A FULL MEMBER OF THE COUNTRY TEAM
AND PARTICIPATES FULLY IN ALL ITS MEETINGS.

3. THREE EXAMPLES OF EMBASSY ENCOURAGEMENT OF AND ASSISTANCE TO DEA IN ITS OPERATIONS COME TO MIND:

--THE EMBASSY HAS PUSHED VIGOROUSLY WITH THE GOM TO OBTAIN EXTRADITION TO THE US OF A MAJOR HEROIN TRAFFICKER (CHUA HAN MOW, MALAYSIAN CITIZEN). EMBASSY EFFORTS IN THIS CASE INCLUDE HIGH-LEVEL DEMARCHE, CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN THE EXTRADITION HEARING, AND EMBOFF ATTENDANCE AT EVERY SESSION OF THE HEARING AS EVIDENCE OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE CASE. (THE FINAL DECISION IS STILL PENDING.)

--THE EMBASSY OBTAINED THE DEPARTMENT'S WAIVER FOR THE COURT TESTIMONY OF A DEA AGENT IN TWO SEPARATE LOCAL CASES. ONE CASE INVOLVES AN AMERICAN CITIZEN DEFENDANT, THE OTHER WILL, WE HOPE, ESTABLISH A FAVORABLE PRECEDENT FOR THE USE OF AGENTS PROVOCATEURS IN MALAYSIAN NARCOTICS CASES.

--THE EMBASSY AND DEA COOPERATED FULLY IN BRIEFING CODEL WOLFF DURING ITS VISIT TO MALAYSIA IN JANUARY. DEA WAS GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO THE CONGRESSMEN AND COMMITTEE STAFF ITS VIEWS BOTH OPENLY AND PRIVATELY ON THE DEA-EMBASSY RELATIONSHIP.

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BOTH DEA AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED TO THE CODEL THE CLOSE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP NOTED ABOVE.

4. THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND DEA ON NARCOTICS MATTERS AT THIS MISSION IS A REFLECTION OF THE OUTSTANDING QUALITY OF DEA PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE, ESPECIALLY SAIC MICHAEL POWERS. HE IS FULLY DEDICATED TO THE DEA MISSION AND AT THE SAME TIME APPRECIATES JUST AS FULLY THE POLITICAL PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH HE MUST OPERATE. IN ADDITION, POWERS HAS WORKED HARD TO CULTIVATE SMOOTH AND CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH A VARIETY OF MALAYSIAN ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, AN EFFORT WHICH HAS PAID OFF WELL IN ENHANCING LOCAL DEA EFFECTIVENESS. COOPERATION BETWEEN DEA AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OBVIOUSLY HELPS MINIMIZE THE NEED FOR EMBASSY INTERVENTION IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, ESPECIALLY WHEN AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE SO SELDOM INVOLVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA02747
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-0635
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsns.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bcafd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 83084
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3047709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTION OF DEA
TAGS: SNAR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bcafd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014